

Flathead County Fair Commission
June 11, 2009

The Flathead County Fair Commission met in session May 14, 2009. Members present were Chairman Butch Woolard, Commission members Susan Munsinger, Paul Atkinson, Christina Williams, office manager and. Fairgrounds Manager Jay Scott.

Guests present were Chance Barnett with Flathead Home Builders, Genna Tartaglino with the Flathead Valley Hockey Association, Ron Theibert, horse racing representative, Dan and Kathy Mason with Montana Doggies, and Jim Peterson with KARI Dodge.

Chairman Woolard called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Minutes from the April meeting were discussed.

Munsinger moved to approve the minutes as read Atkinson seconded the motion.

Public Comment:

None at this time

Guests:

Chance Barnett with the Flathead Home Builders asked about a protection clause in their next contract. They would like to have a 90 day before and after clause but would accept what ever the Fair Commission would do.

Atkinson moved to grant a 30 day before and after clause at no charge if the event is held in March and the Commission is to have the right to decide what is an alike event. This would be a year to year agreement.

Barnett said he thought his group would be very happy with this new agreement. Barnett then said the Home Builders would like the food concessions to pay the Fair Grounds and the Home Builders not be responsible for collecting the money, 15% of gross sales, and paying the Fair Grounds.

Scott said the Fair Grounds could collect the percent owed, the problem is the Fair Office doesn't know who the vendors are most of the time and that is why it is up to the event holder to collect and pay the Fair Grounds their percentage.

The motion was passed that there will be a 30 day clause at no charge if the event is held in March and the Home Builders will collect the 15% owed by the concessioners they have at the show and pay this amount to the Fair Office

Dan Mason with Montana Doggies asked about having a food booth at the rodeo between the East and South bleachers. This would be for the three nights of rodeo only. He is a for profit booth and agreed to pay 30% of gross sales, he can do all of the required health rules.

Munsinger moved to have him do the food in that area.

Motion passed.

Genna Tartaglino with the Flathead Valley Hockey asked the Commission about a grill hood in their food booth. Scott said she needs to go to the city Fire Department and get all of the requirements. If she would get a meeting with the Fire Department and Scott so a price of the hood cost could be done and if possible the Fair Grounds would pay for the upgrade because the Fair Grounds owns that building. The Fair Commission agreed to this arrangement.

Theibert addressed the commission stating the May minutes were wrong and he would like to see them corrected on the vote issue of stall rent for 2009 season. He said the vote was Atkinson and Fosbery to leave the rent the same as 2008 which was \$50.00 per stall per month and Munsinger and Dykstra wanted to raise the rent this year to \$75.00 with the tie breaking vote by Woolard to leave the rent for 2009 the same as the rent for 2008 training stall rents for horse racing. Stall rent for 2008 and 2009 will be \$50.00 per month per horse. Thiebert reported that he paid the Fair Office \$1525.00 for the month of May and will have another \$40.00 by the end of the week. Theibert asked if the rent could be negotiated, Atkinson stated he would like to leave the rent like it is and will be reviewed at the end of the race training season. Theibert said he is paying for everyone training except Janis Schoepf; she will pay her own stall rent. Theibert would like to get a list of events so the trainers will have advance notice of when the track will be closed for other events, and he wants all tracks crossing to start after 10:00 A.M. as was the old rule.

Scott will have a calendar posted each month for the horsemen on the back side.

Jim Peterson with KARI Dodge talked with the Fair Commission about the economy and the contract with the Fair Grounds, KARI Dodge and the PRCA Rodeo. Peterson has agreed to pay a sponsorship to the Fair Grounds and furnish a pickup for the fair manager to drive. At this time the pickup is to big of an expense, Peterson said it would be a huge help to his business if the Commission would let him not do the pickup at this time. He is looking at all cost of doing business and he is hoping this is a cost he could cut out. Peterson assured the Commission that some of the problems he is facing are nation wide and not just local. The Fair Commission said they understand and in no way do they want KARI Dodge or anyone else to suffer hardships do to the economy or an agreement that can be adjusted.

Woolard asked if Peterson could give the Fair Grounds a couple of weeks to come up with a new plan and his truck would be returned. Peterson said that would work and again thanked the commission for working with him, he hopes to be able to get a truck back to the Fair Grounds at a later date, when the economy improves. Peterson assured the Commission that the rest of the agreement on sponsorship will remain as is.

Commission Report:

Munsinger asked Atkinson about the building he has been working on and where are we today on this project.

Atkinson said he has talked with Max Bacus's office and has no new information at this time. Munsinger said she may have a new contact person so if Atkinson would get with her maybe together they can get some answers. Atkinson still has hopes of getting this project started this year.

Atkinson had nothing to report on at this time.

Woolard had nothing to report on at this time.

Old Business:

Woolard said he had talked with the local Toyota dealer and he will give the Fair Grounds pickup to use for promotional purpose. Discussion was held on the Dodge agreement, it was felt by all of the Commission that the Fair Grounds should let Peterson out of the agreement, there was never any intent to cause any harm to his dealership. Woolard will get back to the rest of the Commission on what he finds out next week about getting a Toyota for the Fair Grounds.

New Business:

No new business at this time.

Managers Report:

Scott reported that the spring rodeo paid the Fair Grounds \$1000.00 and the concession off of the beer was \$480.00 and the concession off of the food would be in the first of next week. He felt this was one of the best rodeos held in the spring, because the Fair Grounds had no investment and received payments. The rodeo promoters would like to do it again next year. Scott said he talked with the city police and there were no problems with the beer concessions.

Scott said he is in communication with Gary Felstead on getting a concert lined up for next year and will have an answer by the next meeting. The goal is to have concert and rodeo tickets for sale the day after Thanksgiving this year. Woolard asked if the rest of the Commission thought we needed to do a survey on who to hire for the concerts next year. Scott said Fjelstad thought he could get Hank Williams Jr. or Randy Travis. The Commission thought either one would be good.

Scott asked if the fair Commission had a plan on what they were going to ride on in this year's parade. We need to make plans so if we have to have something special we will have the time to get it here.

Scott reported that the Queen pageant was going well he thought there are three Queens and nine Princesses this year. There is a calendar of events posted in the entry was and the Commission is invited to attend these events.

Scott said the set up for the fair is going well and we will be ready in plenty of time, the hog, beef, sheep and goat pens are almost ready now and shaving will be here early this year. With Plum Creek shutting down plants Scott is trying to get what ever shavings are available early, he will also talk with Stoltze Lumber.

Scott said the fair commercial booths and the fair events are coming together and there should be no surprises for the fair.

Scott reported that the tickets are going on sale June 22 at 7:00 A.M. if the Commission needed any extra tickets please let the office know early.

The budget for 2009 looks good at this time, we may be a little short but we will be very close to the \$700,000.00 that was estimated.

The committees that Fosbery has in place are working on the Grand Entry for the rodeo. They are having meetings to improve on this; the Harley Davidson Motorcycle club wants to do one night of Grand Entry this year. Scott will get with Fosbery to help get this set up. Fosbery will get with Karla Levengood to see if she is going to sponsor the Indian Relay jackets again this year.

The next Fair Commission meeting will be held July 9, 2009 at 6:00P.M. In the Fair office.

Atkinson move to adjourn the meeting at 9:45
Munsinger second

Chairman

Secretary/Manager